GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2769
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
WAGES TO AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wages and other facilities available to the agricultural labourers are much less as compared to their counterparts in organized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure equitable wages and facilities to the agricultural labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The average daily earnings of agricultural workers are less than that of workers in organized sector due to various reasons which include:

(i) The wages/earnings of the agricultural labourers are fixed for unskilled workers only under provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, which are usually less than prevailing wage rates of the workers in organized sector.

(ii) The work in the agriculture sector is generally seasonal and the number of working days of the agricultural workers is always less than that of the organized sector workers.

Minimum wages fixed by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction are also applicable to those engaged on daily basis.The Act provides for revision of minimum wages at an interval not exceeding five years. Whenever minimum wages have a Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) component, the VDA is revised periodically twice a year.